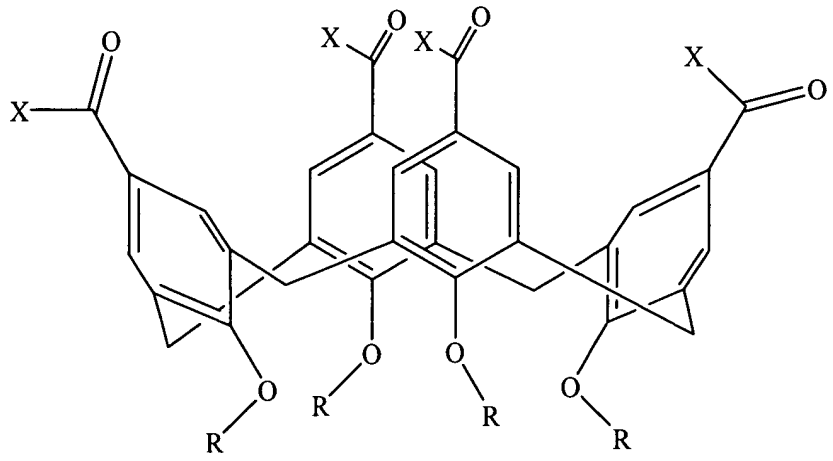
Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A growth factor binding compound comprising a plurality of peptide loops attached to a ~~non-peptide organic scaffold~~ calixarene or a (C_8-C_{12})aryl, wherein the peptide loops may be the same or different with respect to one another, wherein each peptide loop comprises a plurality of peptides, wherein each peptide comprises a plurality of amino acids, and wherein the peptides may be the same or different with respect to one another.

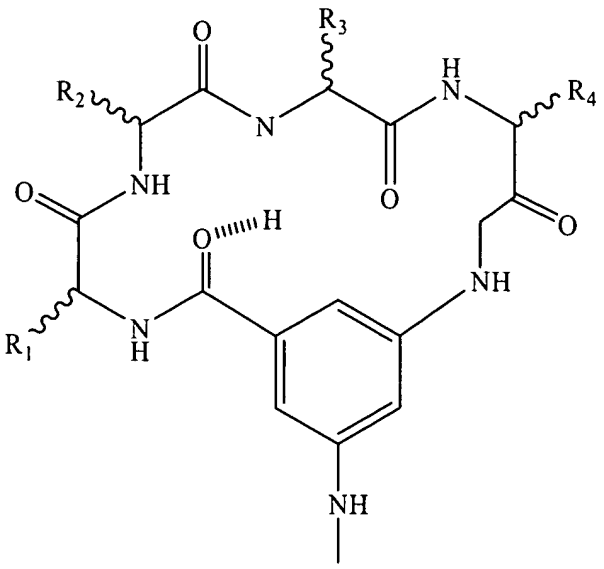
Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 1, in which each of said ~~peptide loop comprises~~ peptides comprise a tetrapeptide.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A growth factor binding compound, of the general structure:



wherein R is n-butyl, n-propyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, (C_7-C_{18}) ~~aralkyll~~ aralkyl, (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkenyl, (C_7-C_{18}) aralkenyl, or (C_1-C_{12}) alkylether, and X are independently cyclic peptide loops of the general structure:



wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are each amino acid side chains that define a tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~, wherein said tetrapeptide is covalently attached at the amino and carboxy termini of said tetrapeptide to a 3-aminomethyl-5-aminobenzamide linking group, and wherein said tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~ is selected from the group consisting of GDFD (SEQ ID NO. 1), GDDD (SEQ ID NO. 2), D-ADGD (SEQ ID NO. 3), GDLD (SEQ ID NO. 4), GDAD (SEQ ID NO. 5), GDGY (SEQ ID NO. 6), ADGD (SEQ ID NO. 7), GDSD (SEQ ID NO. 8), GKGF (SEQ ID NO. 9), GKGK (SEQ ID NO. 10), GDND (SEQ ID NO. 11), PDGD (SEQ ID NO. 12), GDDG (SEQ ID NO. 13), and GDDY (SEQ ID NO. 14).

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 4, in which said growth factor is a platelet derived growth factor, and wherein said tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~ is GDGY (SEQ ID NO. 6).

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A composition comprising the compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A method of treatment of a subject having a disease comprising excess cellular proliferation, excess angiogenesis, a tumor, or a combination thereof,

wherein said method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the growth factor binding compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): The method as in claim 7, wherein said tumor expresses elevated amounts of platelet derived growth factor.

Claim 9 (Original): A method for measuring the amount of a growth factor in a sample, comprising:

obtaining a fluid sample suspected of containing a growth factor;

contacting said sample with a compound of claim 1 that binds said growth factor; and

detecting the binding of said growth factor to said compound.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is radiolabeled, fluorescently labeled, or both.

Claim 11 (Original): The method as in claim 9, wherein said compound is attached to a surface.

Claim 12 (Original): A method for the delayed release of a growth factor in a patient, comprising administering to said patient a stoichiometric complex of said growth factor and a compound of claim 1.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A method of treatment of a subject suffering from, or at risk of, restenosis, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the growth factor binding compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the effective amount inhibits, prevents or ameliorates restenosis.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13 wherein the restenosis results from balloon angioplasty, insertion of a vascular stent, or resection of a blood vessel.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 4 wherein said growth factor is vascular endothelial growth factor and wherein said tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~ is GKGK (SEQ ID NO. 10), GDGY (SEQ ID NO. 6), or functionally related derivatives thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 4 wherein said growth factor is acidic fibroblast growth factor and wherein said tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~ is GDDD (SEQ ID NO. 2), GKGK (SEQ ID NO. 10), GDDG (SEQ ID NO. 13), GDGY (SEQ ID NO. 6), or functionally related derivatives thereof.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 4 wherein said growth factor is insulin-like growth factor-1 and wherein said tetrapeptide ~~sequence~~ is GDDG (SEQ ID NO. 13) or a functionally related ~~derivatives~~ derivative thereof.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein said administering comprises administering the growth factor binding compound of claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the subject.

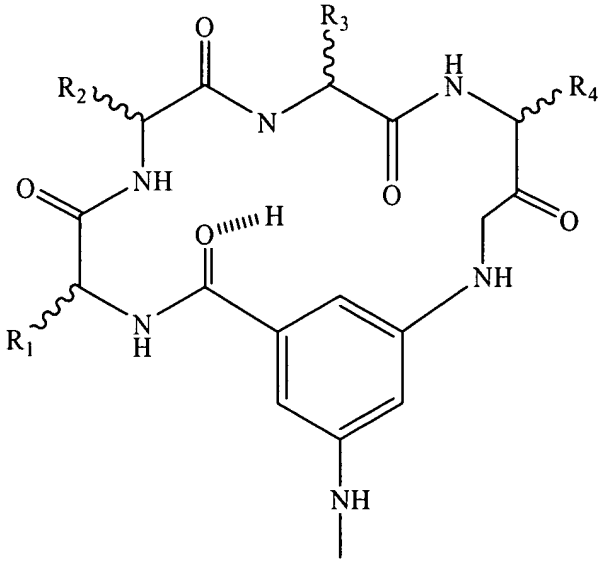
Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein said administering comprises administering the composition of claim 6 to the subject.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein said administering comprises administering the growth factor binding compound of claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the subject.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein said administering comprises administering the composition of claim 6 to the subject.

Claim 22 (New): A composition comprising the compound of claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 23 (New): The compound of claim 1, wherein each of the peptide loops have the general structure:



wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are each peptides.